



Memorandum

To: Mayor and Members of Town Council
From: Laura Budak, Project Manager for Oyster Factory Park
Date: February 1, 2010
Cc: Anthony Barrett, Town Manager, Bob Fletcher
Subject: Wharf Street Road Ownership Transfer

Recommendation:

Town Council authorizes the Town Manager to take over ownership from SCDOT the portion of Wharf Street which runs through the Oyster Factory Park (Bridge Street to the May River access). This action allows Oyster Factory Park phase 1 enhancements to proceed. Phase 1 includes improvements to existing stormwater runoff conditions and is consistent with the Town's mission to protect the May River.

Background:

One of the planned Oyster Factory Park improvements for the current fiscal year is a construction project to address road and drainage issues on the portion of Wharf Street that runs from Bridge Street to the May River.

The Town contracted the design services of Ward Edwards Engineering to come up with possible solutions to redirect and treat stormwater run-off from the paved road. Town staff in conjunction with local citizen stakeholders reviewed various ideas proposed and reached a consensus on the appropriate corrective measures to take. The design which was selected incorporates some cutting edge stormwater solutions while maintaining the natural beauty and historic character of the park.

Since the County is co-owner of the park, the design was then reviewed and approved by both the County Public Services Committee and Beaufort County Engineering staff.

At present, Wharf Street is owned by SCDOT. Town staff attempted to secure an encroachment permit from SCDOT but received an e-mail response on January 8th which stated, "The Department feels that it would be in the best interest for the Town of Bluffton or Beaufort County to take over maintenance of this small section of roadway." Since the proposed stormwater infrastructure is not typical of Beaufort County's road and drainage construction either, it is suggested that the Town take over ownership.